

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of  
Kingscote Parish Council  
Held 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 via Zoom

Members present: - Cllrs S Cooper, G Nichols, T Wooldridge, J Bowers, R Gale  
Officer: -Clerk Fiona Thornton.

Members of the Public: Mr M Challis, Mr P Carpenter (parish tree warden)

**20/159. Council certifies that during the financial year 2019/20, the higher of the authority's gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000**

Decision: proposed by Cllr J Bowers and seconded by Cllr G Nichols, agreed by all.

**20/160.Council to note Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20**

Noted

**20/161.Council to approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2019/20**

Decision: proposed by Cllr J Bowers and seconded by Cllr G Nichols, agreed by all.

**20/162.Council to approve Section 2 Accounting Statements 2019/20**

Decision: proposed by Cllr G Nichols and seconded by Cllr J Bowers, agreed by all.

**20/163.Council to note Bank Reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

Noted

**20/164.Council to approve Income and Expenditure Accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

Decision: proposed by Cllr J Bowers and seconded by Cllr G Nichols, agreed by all.

**20/165.Council to discuss trees at Bagpath Common – management thereof**

Cllr T Wooldridge introduced this item by advising he believed that the parish council is responsible for the Common and some trees have been affected by ash dieback, putting users of the road and footpath at risk.

For background information

- Boundaries of the Common – Glos.CC legal dept. provided maps of the registered land which were used as the basis of the quotations received to survey the trees. Since then, Cllr T Wooldridge has obtained maps which are believed to show the accurate boundaries and these maps agree with those held by the Forestry Commission and also PROW.
- Ownership – the Common is not registered with Land Registry but it is generally believed that the parish council is responsible for the management. Cllr T Wooldridge will speak to Gos.CC legal dept. for clarification
- Quotes – 2 quotes have been received to carry out a survey and there is one expression of interest. Cllr T Wooldridge reported that Glos. Wildlife Trust Consultancy are interested in quoting to carry out a survey.

Cllr T Wooldridge made the following recommendation:-

- The 2 quotes received are based on the old maps, so the Clerk ask the companies to either confirm or revise their quotations based on the new maps.
- A fixed price quotation be requested for the quote that was not fixed
- Glos. Wildlife Trust Consultancy to be asked to quote so potentially council will have 4 quotations to consider
- Survey will be a ground survey to look at trees, recommending action to make area safe i.e. trees at risk of causing harm on the boundaries

Cllr J Bowers reported that the local resident living nearby is concerned about the trees surrounding their property and would like to know if they are safe.

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Council debated as to the best use of parish council money and whether a survey should be carried out or whether quotations should be obtained for just felling. Matters discussed were

- Due to the potential expense any felling would have to be carried out on a piecemeal basis
- Merits of carrying out a survey v felling as the survey is valid on the day it is carried out but without a survey how do you identify trees that require felling
- Ash dieback – when the disease is advanced there is also a hazard in carrying out felling
- Cllr T Wooldridge advised that most of the ash in the area are visibly affected by the disease
- A rolling programme of felling would have to be agreed with the most affected being felled first.
- Without a survey the extent of the problem would not be fully known
- Cllr J Bowers suggested that if a survey was undertaken it would enhance any potential securement of outside funding by way of grants
- Cllr R Gale advised that advice by some organisations is now to leave some trees as they may recover so a survey would show the worst affected areas which could be cut.
- A survey would at least give the basis of a programme of felling

**Decision**

Proposed by Cllr J Bowers and seconded by Cllr R Gale that council implement Cllr T Wooldridge recommendation

- The 2 quotes received are based on the old maps, so the Clerk ask the companies to either confirm or revise their quotations based on the new maps.
- A fixed price quotation be requested for the quote that was not fixed
- Glos. Wildlife Trust Consultancy to be asked to quote so potentially council will have 4 quotations to consider

Vote: 4 in favour, 1 against. Motion carried.

Signed .....

Date .....